

## OHIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS 1887 VOL 25

Five minutes later Swyley and Malloy had gone into conference in a corner with Celia and Lechat, and Colman stood apart with Sirocco and Hanlon, discussing tactical details. "We might have enough now to put a demolition squad outside to take out the Battle Module drive section like Carson suggested," Hanlon said. "Even if Stern gets in there it would give more protection to the rest of the ship." exceptional strength matched the congressman's weakness. She didn't have to be coddled. "Karla is snared on a low cactus, crying out involuntarily as the sharp spines prick through the sock on his right. during their desperate, lonely, and probably long flight for freedom, he himself will have to guard against. She chuffs softly, as though she understands. "A boy of twenty-three," Kalens had said a few minutes previously. "Who was entrusted to us as a child to be given a chance to live a life of opportunity on a new world free of chains and fetters . . . to live his life with pride and dignity as God intended-cut down when he had barely glimpsed that world or breathed its air. Bruce Wilson did not die yesterday. His life ended when he was three years old." -faltered, faded, vanished. "No mother anywhere," she repeated softly, but to Micky this time. "That's. In the days ahead, if any of Congressman Sharmer's Circle of Friends couldn't resist a little payback, memory must be fed in his enduring absence. "HE'S AMAZING, ISN'T HE," Shirley said in an awed voice as she leaned forward to get a better view of the table over the shoulder of her daughter, Ci, who was sitting on the floor. "It must be a genetic mutation that makes sticky fingers or something." "Jay told us you're an engineering officer on the Mayflower 11," Chang said, sounding interested. "A specialist in fusion processes." miserable enough until the next earthquake could do a tornado's work. "You don't understand," Jay said. "On Earth, a lot of people would see that as their big ambition in life." "Ah, but think of the honor of it," Hanlon told them. "And won't every one of them poor SD fellas back in the shuttle be eating his heart out with envy and just wishing he could be out there with the same opportunity to risk himself for flag and country." Inside, the furniture seemed to be on the brink of spontaneous combustion. The sliding windows were. Honda and out of sight.. instantly render him ravenous, the boy realizes he is grinning as widely as the dog. "There's half a pie left," Geneva offered cheerily. "They do the same thing all the time, from when they quit school to when they retire," Ci reminded her mother. Nevertheless, Micky dreaded returning to Geneva's kitchen, where the girl waited. If Sinsemilla in all her. Lechat hesitated and looked uncertainly in Celia's direction. She returned an almost imperceptible nod. Lechat looked back at the screen. "Shall we just say that we can prove conclusively not only that the Chironians were blameless, but that Stern himself arranged for the evidence to be falsified to suggest otherwise," he said. of injustice that quaked through her with 1906 San Francisco intensity, rocking her from good leg to bad. Yes, Simmonds? "She's right," Celia agreed simply. convention of Christian road warriors. cell phone or an in-car computer to report that the fugitive pair had only minutes ago created a scene on. "Michelina Birdsong." A month ago, she had read a magazine article about enlarging your breasts through the power of positive. After walking another mile, he came to the all-night market that he'd specified for the rendezvous. Stern, in a maroon dinner jacket and black tie, watched her silently through impenetrable, liquid-brown eyes while the steward filled two brandy glasses, set them alongside the decanter on a low table, then departed with his trolley. Through the meal Stern talked about Earth and the voyage, and Celia had found herself following his lead, leaving him the initiative of broaching the subject of her visit. Finally, Cliff Waiters would never have gotten himself into a stupid situation like that. So what if Walters did sometimes turn a blind eye to little things that didn't matter anyway? Walters was a lot smarter when it came to the things that did matter. So much for Fallows, the smartass kid shuttling up from Arizonian to save the universe, who still hadn't learned how to keep his nose clean. Cliff Waiters had earned every pip of his promotions, Fallows conceded as part of his self-imposed penance; and he had earned every year of being a nonentity on Chiron that lay ahead. Someday, maybe, he'd learn to listen to Jean. When Curtis follows the dog, he peers across the kitchen and the lounge, toward the cockpit. The mother, for instance, like most TV shows and movies and half the actors in them? although not, of. Banishing doubt, seizing hope with a desperation grip, Curtis swallows hard and prepares himself for an. On the other side of the fire-door, Bernard dropped his tools and ran back to the front lobby of the Cominunications Center, praying that the alarm hadn't been raised from there. Hanlon and Stanislaw were waiting outside the entrance with a handful of the others. Just as Bernard arrived, Harding and the first contingent of the staff entrance group appeared from a side-corridor, closely followed by Maddock and the main party with two wounded being helped. Hanlon speeded them all on through into the Communications Center, and the security door crashed shut moments before heavy boots began sounding from the stairwell nearby. to the open bedroom door with a measure of dignity. "Gut-feel," Pernak told him "The weapons have to exist. I tell you, I know how these people's minds work." his panic. He throws the door open, plunges down the steps, and stumbles recklessly onto the blacktop. as natural a part of the night as the musky smell of animals and the not altogether unpleasant scent of. "I suppose not." Sirocco conceded, deflating with a disappointed sigh. After a second he looked up sharply again. "I'll do a deal with you though. Tell me after this is all over, okay?" He had been observing for perhaps five minutes when a door farther along the platform opened, and a figure came out clad in the same style of suit as the engineers below were wearing. The figure approached the ladder near where Colman was standing and turned to descend, pausing for a second to look at Colman curiously. The nametag on the breast pocket read 'B. FALLOWS. Colman raised a hand in a signal of recognition and flipped his radio to local frequency. "Hey, Bernard, it's me--Steve Colman. I don't know if you're heard yet, but that' transfer didn't go through. Thanks for trying anyway." and at the center of the design is he himself, caught and murdered. The plusive squeal of air brakes, recklessly applied so late, reveals the driver not as a man at the mercy. Curtis. the squashed-shag carpet, as if it were a quickness of water following

the course of a rillet. Encountering problem of toileting neatly at faster-than-light speeds, is sure to be able to take the wrinkles out of this. "Sweetie, you're a victim, you've nothing to be ashamed about." She hadn't cried since childhood. She'd thought that she was beyond tears, too tough for self-pity and. "Aha!" The preacher made an appealing gesture to the audience. "Is there any difference, my friends? Can we see atoms? Is this not arrogant insolence?" He looked back at the boy and jabbed an accusing finger at him. "Do you claim to have seen atoms? Tell us that you have, and I will say that you lie!" Another appealing flourish. "And is this therefore not faith any the less, and yet this person proclaimed to have no need of faith. Does he not, therefore, contradict himself before us?" .targets in a shooting gallery if it's on the wrong corner. ". "You haven't gone to the police," Micky said. .Nearing the end of the kitchen, he encounters several workers crowding through an open door. ". "And we like you, sweetheart," Geneva assured her. ". "Judge Fulmire." Lechat frowned and tapped in a code to reconnect. The unit returned a "number unobtainable" mnemonic. He rattled in another code to alert a communications operator. The same thing happened. "The regular. "Oh, for goodness' sake, stop teasing the child," Geneva said. "You'll have to forgive me, Leilani. I've.though the farmhouse has become a carnival funhouse awchirl with bright flickering spooks. .The guard had been doubled at the main gate. Hanlon had taken up a position to one side of the entrance, watching the sentries who were checking incoming and outgoing traffic. Jay Fallows was standing just outside, by the wall of the sentry post. Hanlon saw Colman approaching and sauntered across to meet him. "I'm sorry to be interrupting the beauty sleep you're so much in need of, but you've this young gentleman here asking to talk to you." Colman walked over to where Jay was waiting, and Hanlon resumed watching the entrance. .colors, however, proved insufficient to con Noah into a holiday mood. .In three clinkless steel-assisted steps, Leilani reached the door. Ear to the jamb. Not a sound from the. most definitely didn't need a caffeine jolt. Her hands were shaking. The cup rattled against the saucer. "Serial killers," he whispers to Old Yeller. Serial killers. This concept is too complex for the dog to. "I put loose a lady like this once before, twice maybe, but those were daylight. ". likely to gallop. The windshield provides a view only of another?and unoccupied?Explorer ahead, plus. she sat. "But, sweetie, I remember so clearly . . . the wonderful satisfaction of shooting him. ". "On your way." One of the troopers nudged him in the ribs with a rifle butt and guided him toward the stairs behind Anita and Ramelly, who was being helped by the medic and another of the SD's. Colman watched until they had all left, then returned to the others. .Perhaps he had been hasty, and maybe just a little naive, when he and Eve had talked with Lechat, he admitted to himself. He still believed, as he had believed then, that the Terrans would melt quietly into the Chironian scheme in their own time if they were left alone to do so, but it was becoming apparent that not everybody was going to let them alone. He still couldn't see permanent Separatism as the answer either, but for the immediate future he would feel more comfortable at seeing somebody with a level-headed grasp of the situation in control- such as Lechat. On reflection, Pernak regretted his response to Lechat's plea for support. But it was far from too late for him to be able to change that. He didn't know exactly what he could do to help, but he was getting to know many Chironians and to understand a lot about their ways. Surely that knowledge could be put to some useful purpose. .took things from you that you never-ever wanted to give, the proper authorities weren't there for you. Adam had not seemed especially surprised when Hanlon expressed reservations about the wisdom of such an attitude, and had replied to the effect that on Chiron personal affairs were considered personal business. Some couples might choose to remain exclusively committed to each other and their family, others might not, and it wasn't a matter for society or anybody else to comment on. As far as he was concerned, Adam had ~aid, the notion of anybody's presuming to decree moral standards for others and endeavoring to impose them by legislation was "obscene." Feet thump up the entry stairs, and the floorboards creak under new weight. Lamps come on in the. so resourceful and cunning that they are likely to track down their quarry no matter how successful the. petroleum deposits in particular, as put forth locally in everything from textbooks to the Internet. Yet even. By their very presence, however, the cowboys have won allies for Curtis. As the crouching boy. "We can probably figure out a way to get you into the house, Veronica. I don't know the score at the base right now, but we've got a unit due to go there any minute. That means you'll have to trust some other guys too. Okay?" .lap, people looked at her face and often smiled, treated her like any other kid, with no sorrow in their. "What's wrong? What can I do?" Micky worried, although she no longer expected a coherent reply or. Micky knew from experience that this was not reliably the case. "Anyway," she said, "whether they. "You can use a gun., can't you, Jay?" Murphy asked. "Well, yes, but. . ." Jay looked taken aback. ". Looks like it," Sirocco agreed. He moved behind the desk while the D Company privates took up positions beside the entrance, and the SD's walked away talking among themselves. .the capacity for any emotions other than fear and grief, considering the ordeal he has so recently endured. ". "You seem surprised," Rastus said to Bernard. .Colman was becoming irritated again. No one on the ship had met a Chironian yet, but everyone was already an expert. All anybody had seen were edited transmissions from the planet, accompanied by the commentators' canned interpretations. Why couldn't people realize when they were being told what to think? He remembered the stories he'd heard in Cape Town about how the blacks in the Bush raped white women and then hacked them to pieces with axes. The black guy that their patrol had interrogated in the village near Zeerust hadn't seemed the kind of person to do things like that. He was just a guy who wanted to be left alone to run his farm, except by that time there hadn't been much left of it. He'd begged the Americans not to nail his kids to the wall--because that was what his own people had told him Americans did. He said that was why he had fired at the patrol and wounded that skinny Texan five paces ahead of Hanlon. That was why the white South African lieutenant had blown his brains out. But the civilians in Cape Town knew it all because their TV's had told them what to think. .Two big SUVs, modified for police use, with racks of rotating red and blue emergency beacons on their. all her strength, trying to hurt it, cut it in half, but again it writhed free, no easier to kill than a serpent of. the rush and rumble of the trains to which she had listened on many other

nights..From the woman's demeanor and a quality of mystery in her smile, Noah suspected that she understood.pocket and held it in front where both of them could watch it, while Swyley deactivated his own~ A few seconds later, the faces of Wellesley, Borftein, and Lechat appeared on the tiny screen. Colman closed his eyes for a moment and breathed a long, drawn-out sigh of relief "They made it," he whispered. "They're all in there.".The beer provided icy solace. "How do you stay so upbeat?". "I was only trying to?".Now, in the Utah night, he sits boldly in the Explorer and sings along with the catchy music on the radio,..good right hand, the pleasing face. Pride had nothing to do with it, either. Considering all her other.deception. Perfect poise is the key to survival. Mom always said so, and Mom knew her stuff.. "Too hard," Geneva declared proudly.. "And how about this?" Pernak said. "Sal says the university's crying out for somebody with a background in nonlinear phase-space dynamics and particle theory.. She as good as said I could get a job there, and that a job like that pays tops around here. What do you think of that for a break?".for interrogation, and at some later date, at his captors' leisure, riddled extensively.. "Now you're in a gang with a future..". "I've been thinking about that ..." Sirocco continued to gaze across the room at Driscoll, who was recounting his experiences to Maddock and a group of others. "He's pretty good, isn't he," Sirocco said, still half to himself..prospects. That's what you get..""What's what I get?". "Jay was able to connect the facts without too much difficulty," Kath pointed out. "We didn't try to hide them. Haven't the scientists on the ship done the same?".Helicopter rotors rattle the night again. Curtis tenses, half expecting gunfire to riddle the motor home, to.deteriorating condition causes the boy concern. The trucker seems on the brink of a medical emergency..self, break out of the straitjacket, and all the rest, huh?" "Maybe."

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